

THE STATE OF THE BALTIC SEA

Eutrophication is the most serious threat to the Baltic Sea environment. Eutrophication is due to high nutrient loading coming from municipal waste waters, agriculture, scattered settlements, traffic, energy production and industry. The loading is discharged from the catchment area which is approximately four times the size of the surface area of the Baltic Sea – holding within it 14 countries and approx. 90 million residents.

Other threats to the Baltic Sea are e.g. the increase in the maritime transportation of oil and chemicals, environmental toxins, aquatic invasive species and climate change.

Photo: Turun Sanomat

Printed on Galerie Art Silk, paper of which production has a certified environmental management system and wood origin tracking system.



City of Helsinki

Pekka Kansanen

Director General of Environment centre

+358 9 310 32000

pekka.kansanen@hel.fi



Olli-Pekka Mäki

Environmental planner

+358 2 262 3461

olli-pekka.maki@turku.fi



THE CHALLENGE OF SAVING THE BALTIC SEA

THE BALTIC SEA CHALLENGE

In June 2007 the Finnish cities of Turku and Helsinki made a commitment to improve the state of the Baltic Sea as declared by their Mayors. The objective is to improve the state of the local waters as well as of the entire Baltic Sea. By their own commitment the cities want to show initiative and reduce their own loading to waters.

THE ACTIONS OF THE CITIES OF HELSINKI AND TURKU FOR SAVING THE BALTIC SEA ARE:

1. Reducing the amount of point source loading
2. Reducing diffuse loading: agriculture and scattered settlements
3. Dredging of contaminated sediments
4. Reducing the wastewater discharges from shipping and boating
5. International co-operation
6. Research projects and establishment of a professorship
7. Establishment of the Protection Fund for the Archipelago Sea
8. Increasing awareness about the state of the Baltic Sea



Photo: Minna Nummelin

CHALLENGE TO OTHER ACTORS

The cities of Helsinki and Turku challenge other actors to join the work for improving the state of the Baltic Sea! In addition to cities also public sector, research and education institutions, NGOs, labour unions, business organisations and private citizens are invited to participate. Challenged actors are expected to draft their own action plan, which entails a list of new concrete actions to improve the state of their local waters and of the Baltic Sea.

The Challenge has been extended to over 700 actors by the end of summer 2009. About 160 actors have given a positive response. Actors already participating include:

- o cities, municipalities and joint local authorities in Finland and other Baltic Sea countries
- o universities
- o NGOs, societies and interest organisations
- o shipping companies: Finnlines, Viking Line, Crystal Cruiser, Costa Crociere S.p.A., Saga Shipping Company Ltd., Hapag Lloyds Kreuzfahrten GmbH
- o other actors, e.g. regional environmental centres, Finnish Maritime Administration, Regional Councils of Satakunta and Southwest Finland, Agrifood Research Finland, Tampere Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Turku Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Finnish Enterprises, Construction Establishment of Defence Administration, John Nurminen Foundation, Kemira Oyj

The Challenge has no deadline, and broad co-operation is needed to have an effect to the state of our common marine environment. Each interested actor is welcome to participate.

Join us!

www.balticseachallenge.net



Photo: Mika Lappalainen